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CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

(HOME DEPARTMENT)

No. H. 157—Mily. 54-49-8, dated 5th April 1950.

According to the Constitution of India, Defence is a Central Subject and the question of the future of the Mysore State Troops has been under the consideration of this Government and the Government of India for some time. It has now been decided that the administrative control of the Mysore State Troops, except the Palace Units, be handed over to the Indian Army authorities with effect from 1st April 1950.

The Mysore State Troops have had a long and glorious tradition and have won for themselves many laurels on the fields of battle on more than one front and in more than one War. Their unflinching loyalty to His Highness the Maharaja, their unfailing devotion to duty, and the efficient and courteous manner in which they have borne themselves on all occasions, have earned for them an abiding place of affection in the hearts of every citizen. In bidding farewell to them, His Highness the Maharaja wishes to convey to the Chief Commandant, Officers and men of all ranks of the Mysore State Troops, his deep sense of appreciation of the onerous duties discharged by them till now, and is confident that they will continue to serve the larger interests of the country with the same patriotic zeal and spirit which has characterised all their actions so far.

By Order of His Highness the Maharaja,

K. SRINIVASAN,
Chief Secretary to Government.

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA'S MESSAGE.

The Palace,

Mysore, 28th March 1950.

On the occasion of this Farewell Tattoo arranged on the eve of the Integration of the Mysore State Troops with the Indian Army, I take the opportunity of conveying my deep sense of appreciation and regard to you, officers and men of all units of the State Forces, and of wishing you every success in the work and duties that lie ahead of you.

The merging of the State Forces with the Indian Army is indeed the natural consummation, in the sphere of National Defence, of the general process of integration which has been progressing so rapidly in all branches of our administration during the past two years and more, a process which will weld together the previously-existing somewhat diverse units of this great country, and will forge a strong and unified Nation. It will now be your duty, as it will be your privilege, to serve the larger interests of India, and I am certain that you will bring to bear in this endeavour the same zeal, thoroughness and patriotic spirit which have characterised your conduct in the past.

I do not wish on this occasion to make any detailed list of the outstanding achievements of the Mysore State Troops in the past, but the mere mention of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Gaza, Jordan, Malaya and the Aid-to-Russia Convoy, bring before the mind's eye in a flash as it were, over the span of two World Wars, your deeds of daring and steadfastness under the most trying and harrowing conditions. And the Government of India have on several occasions availed of and been very grateful for your services, in emergent situations that have arisen within our own country, more especially during the past two or three years. It is your conduct on all such occasions (conduct that has earned for individuals among you recognition of such a distinguished nature as the Military Cross, the Distinguished Service Order, the Indian Order of Merit and the Order of the Russian Star) that has made the word "Mysore" synonymous, in Military parlance, with courage, perseverance and devotion to duty.

Yours is indeed a proud record; I have not the slightest doubt that in your hands the future of that record will be in safe keeping, and that in the discharge of the duties that will now devolve upon you, you will bring nothing but fresh credit and honour to your respective Units and the Colours you serve. The glorious chapter of Mysore Military history which began with the raising of the Mysore Horse in 1749 and the first units of the Barr Infantry in 1761 is now about to merge into the story of the achievements of the Defence Forces of a free and united India. I am confident that in the latter record you will play a part worthy in every way of the grandest traditions of the past.

The thoughts of all Mysoreans will be with you today on the eve of this historic Change-Over; I join the people of the State in wishing every one of you success in your endeavours, good luck and God-speed.

JAYA CHAMARAJA WADIYAR,
Maharaja of Mysore.

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